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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that a federal grand jury returned a twenty-three count indictment yesterday against Jose Vicente Mendez-Tenias, 48 of Dumfries, Virginia, and the Global Evangelism Task Force (GETF), a District of Columbia corporation operating in Dumfries, Virginia for conspiracy (1 count), false statements to a federal agency (7 counts), visa/immigration fraud (7 counts), mail fraud (7 counts), and harboring illegal aliens (1 count). Mendez-Tenias and the corporation will be arraigned before U.S. District Judge Claude M. Hilton on May 21, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. Mendez-Tenias could face up to 210 years imprisonment.

Between January 2000 and November 2003, Mendez-Tenias and the GETF were engaged in the business of providing immigration consulting services to individuals to provide and to submit documents for illegal aliens and other individuals for an adjustment of their immigration status to remain in the United States. During this period, they filed approximately 140 I-360 petitions to receive employment-based visas for special immigrant religious workers. These petitions were purportedly from various churches in the United States for the benefit of aliens attempting to enter the United States or aliens in the United States who were attempting to adjust their status. The petitions and supporting documentation were found to contain forged signatures, false and fraudulent employment and educational histories, degrees and certifications. Mendez-Tenias also hired illegal aliens, and allowed illegal aliens to reside at his home.

This case is being investigated by agents of the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Department of Homeland Security. Assistant United States Attorney Dennis M. Kennedy is handling the prosecution for the United States.

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